



TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 18, 2019

Oregon Agricultural Groups Support for SB 509

Oregon agricultural coalitions support SB 509, that repeals ORS 164.815 which regulates the hauling of hay. The statute requires anyone hauling more than 20 bales of hay on a public highway to have possession of a transportation certificate signed by the producer or the agent of the producer. Failure to do so is considered a crime of the unlawfully transporting hay is a Class C misdemeanor.

The original intent held merit when the average hay bale was generally 75-90 pounds in weight. Theft of bales was prevalent due to their size, weight, and ease of access. Today, the average hay bale weighs typically 1,000 pounds and requires specialized equipment in the field to move. The theft of single 1,000-pound bale is a challenge, let alone 20 or more. The ability to trespass and load by hand 20 large bales and haul with a light-to-medium duty pick-up truck, is not feasible.

SB 509 does not decriminalize the crimes of theft or trespasses. Innovative farming practices have mitigated the risk of theft to farmers. SB 509 would reduce excessive regulation and prevent Oregon farmers and ranchers from being cited as criminals for hauling hay.

We ask for your support for SB 509 today. Thank you for your time and consideration. For more information, please contact:

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